

## High Flight Highlights

Happy New Year! Hopefully all of you had a fabulous holiday. Since our return from leave and a very successful Christmas season, we have been diligently working on our second compact disc. We've wasted no time getting back on track writing, arranging and learning music. This recording will be drastically different from our first release. It will feature more of our individual talents and stylistic diversity. It is a very exciting time for us all.

In February, in addition to supporting the upcoming Guest Artist Series, we will be traveling to Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina to perform for the Twelve Outstanding Airmen Awards Banquet, a prestigious event that is also a lot of fun!

With the New Year here, we have decided to try something new. In every issue of *Cadenza*, High Flight will feature a different member of the group. Who could be a better person to start with than our newest vocalist, Technical Sergeant Darden Safley, who celebrates her first anniversary with The USAF Band on January 4?

TSgt Safley is a graduate of Robert E. Lee High School in Springfield, Virginia, where she was selected for the Virginia All-State Chorus and Honors Choir, both in 1992. She attended

Virginia Polytechnic and State University and graduated in May 1998 with a bachelor of arts degree in vocal jazz performance with a minor in English literature. At Virginia Tech, she was the jazz band's solo vocalist, a member of the "Meistersingers," and member as well as president of the New Virginian's Vocal Jazz Ensemble. Sergeant Safley also was the featured national anthem soloist at many nationally televised Virginia Tech basketball games.

Darden has studied with Lisanne Lyons, Dr. Kevin Fenton and Chip McNeil. She has performed with Mr. Darnen Meader of The New York Voices Vocal Jazz Quartet, Robert Shaw and Janie Fricke. She is a member of the International Association of Jazz Educators.

She says the past year has been great and the transition from civilian to military life has been very successful. She credits the smooth transition to the small group size and the "family-like" working environment, not to mention the positive and helpful attitudes of all the members in the group. Although Darden is thankful for the support from her colleagues, she states there hasn't been much time to think about the transition due to the enormous amount of music she has had to learn since her arrival. In less than a year she has man-



*TSgt Darden Safley*

aged to learn seven very diverse, choreographed shows and countless "Top 40" tunes. In addition, she is also part of a smaller ensemble with even more variety in musical style.

As you can see, Darden has had quite a year and looks forward to many more as High Flight enters the new millennium. Congratulations TSgt Safley on your first year and your many accomplishments! -TSgt Shani Prewitt

# Personnel Matters

## Auditions

The following is a list of upcoming auditions for The United States Air Force Band. Please pass this information on to anyone who might be interested in a career with "America's Band."

MARCH 22, 2000  
**Tuba** - Concert Band

We also have immediate openings for:

**Bassoon** - Concert Band  
**Audio Engineer** - Technical Support

For audition consideration and additional information contact:

Auditions/BABA  
The United States Air Force Band  
201 McChord Street  
Bolling AFB, DC 20332-0202  
e-mail: [audition@bolling.af.mil](mailto:audition@bolling.af.mil)

## Promotion

To Senior Master Sergeant:  
Barbara Taylor, Operations

## New Arrivals

2 Lt R. Michael Mench, Staff Officer  
TSgt Erin Gittelsohn, Concert Band  
TSgt Mari Uehara, Air Force Strings

## Departure

TSgt Mark Robillard, Technical Support,  
separation

## Cadenza

Colonel Lowell E. Graham, Commander  
CMSgt Dana L. Steinhauser, Director of Public Affairs  
MSgt Paul Swantek, Editor  
TSgt Erin Eyles, Assistant Editor  
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